Q.-Well, isn't there a better way of finding out?

Who presides at the meetings? A.-That is at the

Q.-Who presides at the meetings of your com-

mittee? A.—The individual committees, you mean

Q.—Your personal and corporation committee?

A.—We very rarely meet as committees; we have

to do work, and we have no time to meet as com-

Q .- Don't you do work in meetings of the com-

mittee? You don't meet in committees as a whole,

ecause your work is on the corporation side? A .-

Now, let me show you. If anything important

comes up before the minor committee, that is re-

ferred to the Board. We have no special meetings

thing that comes up in your personal committee

that is too big a nut for you to crack, you refer

Q .- And those two real estate men interested or

Q.-That is the way I understand it. But what

do these men on the real estate side know about

don't have anything to do with that? A .- They do.

If they want any facts, they can get it from the

HAZY METHOD OF PROCEDURE.

and get it from the records. But do they know

Q .- Yes, that any man can do. I could go there

more about the personal and corporation side than

you know about the real estate side? A .- That I

don't know. I know they don't handle as many

Q.-There is nothing that has happened there that

would show you that they know anything about your side? A.-The idea is here. If every one of

and the rest of the commissioners are not busy,

Q.-Well, don't it come down to this, that where

the people suppose that the policy of this very im-

portant Tax Department is shaped by five com-

missioners, that after all it is shaped in parts by

two commissioners, one on one side and one on the

Q.-You haven't done anything to shape the real

much, but I have done lots to shape the other part,

Q .- And the real estate men have not done any

commissioners laying out an equal and equitable

You have to consider trusts, as a Tax Commis-

sioner? A .- They are very detrimental to the

A .- Are there any trusts represented in the city

Q.-What are they, the principal trusts? A.-You

Q.-But you, as a Tax Commissioner, think they

are very detrimental, and you have the power to

got ofter them. Now, I ask you what those trusts

thought of them. Now. I don't know, what do

you mean by that question now, what they are?

Q .- You must have had something in your mind

Q .- You answered that trusts were detrimental?

Q .- Now, it is the kind of trusts that you say

are detrimental that I am talking about, and I have

asked you to enumerate some of them represented

in the city of New-York, and you began, you said

the sugar trust and the tobacco trust. Now, what

other? A .- I couldn't name every trust in New-

TAXES ON TRUSTS.

Q.-I am asking for the large trusts that you as

when you answered the question? A .-- N

A .- You asked me a minute ago what I

know as many as I do, sugar trusts and tobacco

of New-York? A .- Lots of them.

Define your question.

York. That is impossible.

A -Ves sir.

thing to shape your side of the business? A .- No

Q .- So where the people suppose they have

estate policy of the Tax Department?

committees is busy, and they need assistance,

your business, the corporation and personal?

Q .- Let us see how that works. If there is

the real estate side, they have to come

that way. There are cases which will take

-No. I don't think so.

find out.-

mittees.

doubt there.

records.

cases as I do.

wise?

country.

trusts

other? A .- Not at all, sir.

in the Board passed.

Board, he is chairman.

of the minor committee.

it to the whole Board? A .- Yes.

you? A.—The deputy's report ought to show how he made it and why he made it.

Q.—And the deputy's report that showed it to your subordinates, and was at your disposal, is this paper that I hold in my hand? A.—Yes, and I don't know that that is final at that.

Q.—What else is there? A.—The field book.

Q.—What velies is there? A.—The field book.

Q.—What valid yeason can you see for the same deputy who assessed in 1888, increasing the valuations on the side street, from 35 to 61 per cent, and then so the side street, from 35 to 61 per cent, and the street of the president to give to all the deputtes any reason for that? A.—They might have you see any reason for that should have you ded to be down the different sections? A.—We had a m

MISTAKES OF DEPUTIES.

Q.—Let us see if we can get some of those mis-takes. There is No. 237 Broadway, the corner. Let us take up No. 236 Broadway, next to the corner. It is next door, but one, to the corner—Nos. 23 and 235 Broadway, assessed last year at \$302,000 and assessed this year at \$376,000 an increase of \$73,000 and a rate of 36 per cent and a fraction. The Chairman—What is the total on No. 237 Broadway?

dway? . Moss-\$325,000. . Chairman-And on No. 235 Broadway?

Mr. Moss-\$25,000.
The Chairman-And on No. 235 Broadway?
Mr. Moss-\$275,000.
Q.-No. 235 Broadway is increased from \$30,000 to Q.-No. 235 Broadway is increased from \$30,000 to \$125,000 an increase of \$45,000 and at the rate per cent of \$554. No. 231 Broadway, increased from \$120,000 to \$189,000 a difference of \$50,000, at a rate per cent of 28 6-12. The next corner, on Broadway, No. 223, is increased from \$425,000 to \$475,000, a difference of \$50,000, and a rate of only 11:3-17 per cent. Now, on that Broadway front we have a variation like this: No per cent, 36 per cent, 36 per cent. 38 per cent, 11 per cent, and the reason assigned is to equalize? A.-His field book ought to show why the increases are there.
Q.-But there is no reason stated right there? A.-Not necessarily.

essarily.

fman—Could you tell by looking at the or could you explain why these valuations

Mr. Hoffman—Could you tell by looking at the field book or could you explain why these valuations were so made? A.—He made them.

Q.—Could it be explained by looking at the field book? A.—I suppose so.
Mr. Moss—I suppose the field book is here. Please Mr. Moss—I suppose the field book covering block to get it and look at it; field book covering block to get it and look at it; field book covering block to get it. While we are waiting for that, let me give you some of the rates on Park Place.

Mr. Feltner—That field book is 1888, the deputy is dead, and you haven't subpoensed him. We will send for it. for it. Moss-We would like to have all the field

Mr. Feitner-We will bring them. Mr. Moss-No. 3 Park Place was increased from \$42,000 to \$50,000, a difference of \$18,000, and a rate of 43 per cent, The adjoining building, No. 5 Park Place, was increased from \$34,000 to \$38,000, a difference of \$14,000 and a rate of 58 per cent. The other one was 42. The adjoining building, No. 7, is at the 58, and the next buildings, Nos. 9 and 11 Park Place, dropped to 52 per cent. The next building, No. 13 Park Place, is increased from \$30,000 to \$62,000, a rate of 73 per cent. Now, isn't it a fact, Mr. Grell, that in figuring up the differences between the different boroughs, it was concluded that it was necessary to raise the valu-ation on New-York City by about \$300,000,000? A .-

That is about it, I guess. AIMED AT \$300,000,000.

Q .- And \$300,000,000 had to be divided up among the sections? A .- Between New-York and The

Q .- The deputies did their best to bring in figures as nearly as they could to get that increase? A .- Done their best to equalize all through. Q.—Did their best to reach that necessary fig-re for equalization? A.—Yes.

A .- And it happened sometimes that deputies brought in too much and it had to be remo A .- That I don't know.

Q .- There was a deputy here the other day, Mr Englehard, who testified that he brought in on his original figures about \$1,000,000 of increase east of Third-ave., and that on consultation with the other deputies, that \$1,000,000 was struck out? A .-That I don't know.

Q.-But if that was it, it was because it was not secessary, and just that much burden could be relieved? That would be the reason for it, wouldn't it? A .- I don't want to say, because I don't know what his reason was for raising it in the first Q .- He stated he raised them on his judgment,

but when he brought the figures in, on consultation with the other deputies, it was too much, and so about \$1,000,000 was struck off. You know no reason why his statements were not correct, do you? A .- I do not.

Q .- And if a deputy brought in more than was necessary to raise the additional amount that had raised in New-York, of course, in justice to the taxpayers it was struck off? A .- Some property was raised outside of New-York and The Bronx, Q.-I understand that. But I am talking abou cases that happened in New-York, where the dep-uty brought in more than was necessary. You n't hold more than was necessary, did you? A. -That I don't know. The chief deputy ought to answer those questions, because he has charge or the books. Q .- It was not your intention to hold more than

was necessory? A .- It was not BIG LOAD ON MANHATTAN.

Q .- You realized that the necessities of the case

threw a pretty heavy load on Manhattan anyhow? A.-True Q .- And you did not mean that that burden should

be any greater than was absolutely necessary, did you? A .- That may be true-there was no necessity Q .- Yes, and so, when too much of an increase

would be brought in, it was a proper thing to shave it down? A .- That I don't know, Mr. Moss. Q.—That you don't know? A.—I don't know, be-

cause I did not handle those books.

Q.—I know, but I am asking you because I think you ought to know. A.—I told you prior to your explanation that my principal work was in the corporations and personal taxation, therefore I could not answer you your questions as intelligently as I wanted to.

Q.—I appreciate all that, and I simply want to get what you do know, that is all I want to get; and of course I assume that, as one of the heads of the Department, you must be familiar with the general principles upon which the office was run. A.—Ah.—

I am only asking you now about those general

Q.—I am only asking you now about those general principles. Among them were the necessity of raising a large additional sum, greater in New-York because it had been assessed lower in the past, and the righteousness of not allowing any larger assessment than was absolutely necessary. You don't want any larger assessment than was really necessary, and did not, did you? A.—Mr. Moss, as I told you before, a minute ago, here, that from the second Monday of January until the first day of May, I have not had a chance to look at but one field book. I have been busy from 8 o'clock in the morning until 6, 7 and 8 in the evening with my own work, outside of these books.

Q.—That is all right. I am not finding fault with that, not a bit; but you are not a clerk, Mr. Grell. A.—But then I could not possibly get everything of that kind in my head; the record will show.

Q.—You are not a clerk in the Department. A.—That is so,

Q.—You are one of the heads in the Department, helping to create the policy upon which the Department is to be run and then for your own nur-

Q.—You are one of the heads in the Department, helping to create the policy upon which the Department is to be run, and then for your own purpose and convenience in the Board, each man agrees to look particularly after a certain thing?

A.—Well, the real estate was working there, and I had my work with the others, as I have told you.

DOES NOT WANT TO SEEM A PUPPET. Q.-Well, now, Mr. Grell, you don't mean to be put in the very dubious position of a Tax Commissioner appointed under a law which requires him to have charge of all tax matters. You don't want to have it go out to the people of the city of New-York—those who have to look at the responsibility of officers—and say that you have taken no part in the adopting of the polley of the tax office on the all-important question of the real estate? A.—I don't say that

all-important question of the real estate? A.—I don't say that.

Q.—Of course you don't. A.—But when you get me to a single field book, it is impossible for me to answer the questions.

Q.—The questions I have asked you you have answered all right. That is, that the necessities of the case required the addition of a large assessed value in the Borough of Manhattan and The Bronx, and that, we agreed, was about \$30,000,000 that had to be apportioned among the different sections. Then I asked you this, that the deputies were doing the best they could to bring in what they thought was necessary from their districts to make up this amount, and sometimes they brought in too much, as has been testified, and then wan't it the proper thing for those in charge and authority to wipe that off when it was too much? A.—That, as I stated before, was in charge of that committee, Mr. Moss. They had to bring their returns to the chief clerk, and the chief clerk so reported to that committee.

clerk, and the chief clerk so reported to that committee.

Q.—Now look here, Mr. Greil. Suppose people
should come forward and charge that in half the
city of New-York the deputies had conspired together and corruptly, ignorantly, or in any way
you put it, had grossly increased and unnecessarily
increased their value, do you think you could be
relieved from your responsibility by saying you had
only looked after personal matters? A.—To an extent six.

only looked the control of the contr

Q.—Is there anything in the charter for a real estate committee and a personal committee that shall know nothing about each other's business. A.—Not necessarily. No, sir, there is not. Q.—There is not? A.—No. Q.—There is not? A.—No. Q.—On the other hand, the charter provides that the Tax Commissioners shall be acquainted with every department and form the policy of the office. A.—And in order to form the policy we must form committees, otherwise we wouldn't get through.

AFRAID OF THE PROBE.

AFRAID OF THE PROBE.

The Chairman—You must have formed some policy, otherwise you would't have been able to conduct the office? A.—Yes, sir, our books will show. Q.—You, as Commissioner, ought to be able to give us some light on it? A.—I have been doing it. Mr. Moss.—You have given us some. Mr. Grell, but I think you can give more. A.—I don't know as I could, but I would be glad to do it. Q.—I don't think you have quite apprehended the questions? A.—Yes, I have. Q.—And I will say to you. Mr. Grell, that if you were not so afraid of the questions you would sit there and look to better advantage. A.—I am not afraid of your questions; bring them right out. Q.—Lot us have your answer, then. I will put it this way, Mr., Grell. When you knew that the

this way, Mr. Grell. When you knew that the very busy.

Q.—But he has to carry water on both shoulders?
A.—That is true.
Q.—Does he receive any more compensation than the other commissioners? A.—You mean salary?
Q.—Salary? A.—Yes.
Q.—Then he is expected to do more work. Do you expect him to do more work than you do? A.—Not necessarily, no.
Q.—Does he co-operate with you on the personal and corporation side? A.—Yes, sir. Not the corporation so much, but personal.
Q.—Does he attend the meetings of your committee? A.—Yes, sir.
Q.—And the meetings of the real estate committee? A.—Yes. DOES NOT KNOW HIS CHAIRMAN.

Yes,

and cierks.

Q.—Well, as the result of that meeting, Mr. Grell, there were instructions given? A.—I believe so; yes. Q.—And each deputy knew about how much his district would have to stand of that \$30,00,000? A.—Yes, sir, of course, I don't know what.

Q.—Was that your intention in attending that meeting and taking part in the deliberations, that meeting and taking part in the deliberations, that so the result of that meeting each deputy should as the result of that meeting each deputy should know about what he ought to do? A.—There is where my argument comes in, Mr. Moss, when I say that power was transferred to the Real Estate Committee.

Committee.

Q.—Was the Real Estate Committee—now that is a statement of fact? A.—Yes.
Q.—Which is important, and I accept that answer. Was that Real Estate Committee compelled to tell each deputy in charge of a section about how much he was to increase his assessment? A.—Of course, naturally, they were. They would have powers in all matters, whether it was to be decreased or increased, Mr. Moss.

IGNORANT OF THE INSTRUCTIONS.

GNORANT OF THE INSTRUCTIONS.

Q.—Not naturally; I am not asking you naturally, but wasn't it understood that the Real Estate Committee was to let each deputy know how much he was to increase his assessment? A.—I couldn't say what instructions they gave, Mr. Moss; I couldn't. Q.—I haven't asked you what instructions they gave, but wasn't it the intention of yourself, when you surrendered your rights on the real estate side, in order to be free from the personal side, wasn't it your intention that the Real Estate Committee should intelligently represent you? Of course, intelligently and properly tell these deputies about what they would have to increase their sections; wasn't that so? A.—I should judge so; yes, sir.

Q.—And that was the purport of the conversation, wasn't it? A.—What conversation?

Q.—The conversation between you Commissioners in that meeting. A.—The meeting?

Q.—Yes, that there should be intelligent instructions given. A.—The minute book ought to show, I don't know what was there.

Q.—The minute book does not show all the talk?

A.—Why, it shows all the proceedings.

Q.—But it does not show all the talk? A.—Well, it shows what appears in the meeting; certainly.

Q.—Stenographically? A.—When we have our meeting, it will show all that has occurred.

Q.—Then what you said must be on the minutes?

A.—Well, you will find it there.

Q.—And if it is not there, the minutes are not correct? A.—Well, you will find it there.

Q.—And if it is not there, the minutes are not correct?

A.—Well, you will find at that meeting about the apportioning of the different percentages to the boroughs? (Not answered.)

Q.—Now, for instance, you have told me in the

Q.—Vas anything of the different percentages to the boroughs? (Not answered.)
Q.—Now, for instance, you have told me in the Borough of Manhattan the rate was about 50 or 60 Borough of Manhattan the rate was about 50 or 60 Borough of Manhattan the rate was about 50 or 60 Borough of Manhattan the rate was about 50 or 60 Borough of Manhattan the rate was about 50 or 60 Borough of the best of my judgment, as I was not a Commission of the best of my judgment, as I was not a Commission of the commis —And in the Borough of Brooklyn it was about er cent? A.—Yes. 75 per cent? A.—Yes. Q.—And in the Borough of Queens it was about 100 per cent? A.—Yes, sir.

BASIS OF ASSESSMENT.

-Now, was it not discussed and practically decided in the meeting that property would be assessed at about 75 per cent of the recorded sales; A .- Not to my knowledge. Q .- That is the testimony that Mr. Feitner gave

the other day. A .- I don't know that. I did not hear him testify to that. Q .- You don't recollect anything like that?

Q .- Was not that about the understanding, that, as near as you could get it, you would cover the entire city at a ratio of about 75 per cent of the recorded sales? A .- You are coming back to the old question as to that apportioning that the committee had that I don't know anything about. I did not have the time to interfere with those things. Q .- Do you mean to tell us that you absolutely

knowledge, on the real estate side? A .- Except the important business from large estates, that were brought before the Board; yes, sir. -And when did that happen, when you made

surrendered all your powers, all your interest and

that arrangement about committees? A .- The first meeting we had of the Board. Q .- That was in January, 1808? A .- Yes

Q.-Will you tell me why you were selected, or were assigned to the corporation and personal side. rather than the real estate side? A .- I don't know There was no intention in it, I suppose. Q.-Did you ask for it? A.-No, sir.

Q.-Did it not occur to you that a man who had just come from a brewing company, and who would have to pass upon the applications and statements of all the brewing companies in New-York, should have preferably taken the real estate side? A .- I don't know. I did not have any such thoughts of such kinds. We went in there to do the business of the office as fairly and honestly as we could, and therefore we formed ourselves in ommittees

Q .- And was it entirely an accident that you took he personal side? A .- It was all agreed by the Commissioners.

-Did you ask for it? A .- No, sir. Q .- Who appointed you? A .- The president did,

upon resolution, I believe. Q .- Who proposed the resolution? A .- That I could not remember.

and personal side, wasn't it? A .- No, sir; no, sir.

Yes, sir.
Q.—You had nothing to do with it? A.—Not with regard to real estate.

FEITNER'S STRONG INFLUENCE.

any one else, has shaped the policy of the T partment in this matter of equalization t boroughs and sections in Manhattan an Bronx? A.—No, sir; it has been before t Board.

understand me. There are five commissioners Yes, sir. Q.—One of those is Mr. Feitner? A.—Yes, Q.—There are four besides Mr. Feitner? A str.

Q .- But he has to carry water on both shoulders?

Q.—Does he do as much work as you do on your side of the Board? A.—I guess he does, we are all

Q.-Is it not a fact that Mr. Feitner, more than

Board.

Q.—But you haven't taken any part in it? A.—Not after the resolution passed; I couldn't, Mr. Moss.

Q.—And that was agreed on at the first meeting in 1888? A.—Perfectly right, sir.

Q.—Surely? A.—Perfectly right; yes, sir.

Q.—Who was with you on the Personal Tax Committee?

had something to say; yes, sir.

a Tax Commissioner, who have to find the property of people and corporations—that you as a Tax Commissioner ought to know something about. A .- Yes; but we have them-by thousands. HE HAD LITTLE TO SAY. Q.-Thousands of trusts? A.-No, not thousands Q .- Didn't you have anything to say in the shapof trusts, but corporations. ing of the resolution, and in discussing who should

Q.-I said trusts. A .- Yes. Q.—And you said trusts. A.—That is true.
Q.—And you have already mentioned two of them.
Mention some more. A.—The record will show you be of these two committees? A .- 1 might have Q .- It was your desire to be on the corporation

how many there are. Q.-I am not talking about the record. I am ask-

ing the question of you. A .- Yes. Q.-Do trusts have trustees? A.-I presume they Q .- Don't you know? A .- I am not a member of

and personal side, wasn't it? A.—No, sir; no, sir.

Q.—You had nothing to say about that, but took just what came? A.—Well, we talked it over, as a matter of fact. There was our president, as well as Commissioner Patterson, of Brooklyn, an old real estate man, and Mr. Sheehy was a real estate man; that, if I remember right, would probably be the practical men on the Real Estate Committee.

Q.—Mr. Grell, did you do anything as a Tax Commissioner to secure equality between the different boroughs of the city in the matter of real estate?

A.—Excepting what came before the Board.

Q.—What did you do to secure equality between the different parts of the city of New-York; what did you do? A.—Personally?

Q.—Yes, sir. A.—I told you that before, Mr. Moss.

Q.—Not a thing? A.—Excepting property that came before the Board; otherwise, the committee had charge of the entire business.

Q.—What resolution or proposition of any kind came before the Board for the purpose of securing equality between the different boroughs on which you took any action? A.—Oh, I presume there were a number of them; I can't recall a single case now, Mr. Moss.

Q.—Was there anything? A.—Yes, we had meet-Q.-Have you tried to tax a trust? A .- Person-

Q.-Yes. A.-The Department has,

Q.—Have you as a member of the Department? A.—Personally, I don't remember that I have.

Q.-Have you as a member of the Tax Depart-ment done anything to secure the taxation of the personal property in the large trusts represented in the city of New-York? A.-Not to my recollec-Q .- I call your attention to the fact that you

mentioned the Sugar Trust and the Tobacco Trust. I now call your attention to the Standard Oil Trust, You have heard of that? A .- Yes, sir. Q .- They must have trustees? A .- Yes, sir,

you took any action? A can't recall a single case a number of them; I can't recall a single case now, Mr. Moss.

Q.—Was there anything? A.—Yes, we had meetings upon important cases.

Q.—I am not speaking about individual cases; I am talking about the varying rate of increase between the different boroughs. Now, what did you do, as a Commissioner, to secure uniformity in the valuation of real estate between the different boroughs? A.—What did I do, personally?

Q.—Yes. A.—Why, Mr. Moss, I was not on that committee. Q .- And under the law, have you the authority to tax personal property that is found in the hands of trustees? A .- Yes, sir.

-Executors? A .- Yes, sir. Q.—Yes. A.—Why, Mr. Moss, I was not on that committee.

Q.—You did nothing, then? A.—Virtually speaking, I did not bother about the returns of the deputies nor the Chief Deputy on real estate matters.

Q.—What, if anything, did you do as Commissioner—what, if any, action did you take as Commissioner to secure equality between the different sections and the different boroughs of Manhattan and The Bronx? A.—That was agreed upon, as to the resolution passed by that committee.

Q.—Then that all went to that committee? A.—Yes. sir. Q .- Administrators? A .- Yes, sir. Q .- Any men holding property in trust? A .- Yes.

Q .- Any such man is liable to pay taxes for property that he holds in trust? A .- Yes, sir. Q.—Do you know who the trustees of the Standard Oil Company are? A.—No.

Q .- Did you ever try to find out? A .- No. sir. Q .- You never did? A .- No, sir. Q .- You have not had to bother yourself with real

estate? A .- Yes, but I have not had any time to bother myself with anything else, Mr. Moss. Q.-What is the total valuation of the per property, of corporate personal property, held in the city of New-York? A .- For 1899?

SEEMS WEAK ON FIGURES

Q.-Yes; give me the amount in figures. A.-I do ot just recollect what the amount is. Q.-1s it \$100,000,000, \$200,000,000, \$300,000,000, \$400,000,000 \$500,000,000? Give it to me in one of those figures. A .- I could not at this minute Q.-Is it \$100,000,000 or is it \$500,000,000? (Not an-

swered.) Q .- Which is the nearest to it, \$100,000,000 or \$500 -000,000? A .- Now, wait a moment, and see whether I can think. You want to know the exact amount? Q.—Not the exact amount. I said the approxi-mate amount of personal property, either in indi-viduals or corporations, that your Department held for taxation for one year. A .- I could not really

G.—Who was with you on the Personal Tax Committee? A.—Commissioner Salmon.
Q.—And Mr. Feitner? A.—Yes, sir.
Q.—Mr. Feitner is also on the Real Estate Committee? A.—That is true.
Q.—Now, Mr. Feitner is on the real estate side and on the personal side, while the two other Commissioners are restricted to the personal side and two Commissioners are restricted to the real estate side? A.—You have that wrong; the Commissioners as a whole are on personal, and the two committees are formed for real estate and corporation matters.
Q.—I understand that. Now look at it. You didn't understand me. There are five commissioners? A.—Yes, sh. Q .- Which figure is the nearest, \$100,000,000 or \$300 . 000,000? A .- I would not want to answer that now. Q .- Could not you state which is the nearest? sfr.
Q.—Two of those four are on the personal side?
A.—Personal and corporation.
Q.—That is you and Mr. Salmon. And the other two on the real estate side? A.—Yes, sir.
Q.—And Mr. Feitner is in both? A.—Yes, sir.
Q.—So that I say that his mind is the controlling mind in all these matters? A.—Not necessarily.
Q.—Well, he knows the personal side and the real estate side? A.—You know why a committee is uneven, as a rule, a case of importance comes up— (Not answered.) Q .- Is it as much as \$100,000,000? A .- It is, pos-

answer now.

Q.-Is it in the neighborhood of \$100,000,000? A. Well, I could bring you the list. I cannot have

everything in my memory. Q .- No, I have not asked you for exact figures. A.—The record will show.

Q.—I am talking to one of two men who have

made a specialty in this whole city of the subject of taxation of personal property, and I have asked whether the amount of personal property held for the year is nearer \$100,000,000 or \$500,000,000-jan't ti \$400,000,000? A .- I will bring you the full particu-Q .- Isn't it four hundred million? A .- I couldn't

answer the question, because the record will show. Q.—You don't know whether one hundred million, two hundred million, three hundred million, four hundred million or five hundred million; you don't know which of these is the approximate figure' A .- I haven't had a chance to look at the records

Q-Well, now, then, supposing that the value of personal property in the city of New-York is about

five hundred million of dollars; do you know, have Q .- Is Mr. Feitner chairman of both committees? - A. (interrupting)-What ou any information

is that question? Q .- Who is chairman of your committee? Don't Q.—As to the value of the personal property the Standard Oil Trust? A.—No, not now. you know? A.-I really don't remember as to what that resolution was, whether Mr. Feitner is chair-

Q.-Do you know whether it approximates man of our committee or not. He may be. I can hundred million dollars? A .- I couldn't say. Q.-The property of the Standard Oil Trust, if Q .- How will you find out? A .- By our resolution it is in the hands of trustees in the city of New-York, is apparently liable to taxation? A .- What

was that question? MR. GRELL SEEMS MIXED.

MR. GRELL SEEMS MIXED.

Q.—The personal property of the Standard Oil Trust, in the hands of trustees in the city of New-York, is apparently liable to taxation, lsn't it? A.—That is a question, because it may be in the return of the trust as to their corporation.

Q.—It may be in the return of the corporation, the individual corporation? A.—When you asked me before whether a trustee or an executor was liable for anything that he held in his possession I did not refer to any trusts, but I referred to real-estate matters. That is in the case of an estate there is an executor appointed, or a trustee, for a minor; that is what I referred to when I answered that question.

Q.—Are there not executors of personal property? A.—Yea, sir.

wered that question.

Q.—Are there not executors of persons

YIY? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Are there executors of real estate?

dir; I mean personal property and real esta

YIY, both.

ty, both.

2-I don't see what you are driving at, Mr.

2-I don't see what you again. For instance,
u have an estate in your charge as a lawyer, as

an executor—
Q.—Yes. A.—You go and swear as to how much personal property you have for the estate, and the estate is held for that upon your affidavit. Now, then, if you have a trustee, the identical way, if a minor child is there, the trustee is responsible.

Q.—Well, supposing I don't make any report, supposing I don't make any affidavit; if you can find out the facts you can tax me, can't you? A.—You have to make an affidavit to the Surrogate. help you out on the personal side? A .- No, not man an hour to go over thoroughly. He lays that one aside, and if any particular question comes up, whether it is a corporation or a personal matter, it is referred to the Board, if there is any question of

gate.

Q.—Supposing I don't; supposing I have neglected my duty entirely and made no affidavit, and it comes to your knowledge that I am the executor of an estate; you could tax the estate? A.—The property is taxed under the law.

Q.—That isn't the question; but can't you tax the property? A.—I can tax the real property?

Q.—And the personality? A.—If we don't know what the personality? A.—If we don't know what the personality consists of, why, we hold you, as executor, responsible.

Q.—Exactly; but if you have information outside of my affidavit.—I have made no affidavit, but you have found out that I have it, then you can tax me, can't you? A.—Yes, sir; but the Surrogate will naturally compel you to make a return.

Q.—But you are not the Surorgate; you are some one else? A.—I know, but there is where we get information from as to estates.

Q.—I understand that; that all trustees, all persons that hold the property for others, are liable to pay a tax on it, are they not? A.—That is as I stated a moment ago; yes, sir.

Q.—The fact that one is called an executor and another a trustee is simply a difference in names?

A.—Yes, sir. Supposing I don't; supposing I have neglected

HARD QUESTION TO ANSWER.

-Now, I ask you again, after all this conversation, what have you people done in the Tax Department, representing the personal and corporation side of the Tax Department, what have you done to find out whether the great trusts represented in the city of New-York and supposedly in the hands of trustees, are or are not paying their proper proportion of the taxes of the city? What have you done? A.—Your returns will show, Mr.

Q .- Do you have any returns from the sugar trust and tobacco trust and the oil trust? A .-

Q .- Have you any? A .- I don't remember just the stance of the three corporations; I don't remember as to that.

policy for the entire city, they really have two committees? A .- How could we get along other-Q.-I am not talking about corporations; I am talking about trusts? A.-Well-yes.
Q.-You have already said that possibly property Q.-I don't know. A.-I am trying to tell you. Q.-What do you think about trusts, Mr. Grell?

held by the trustees might have already been taxed in the corporations; that is possible? A.-Well, not the trustees that I refer to, Mr. Moss; you have misunderstood me. Q.-No, you misunderstand me again. A .- I refer to trustees as representing property of some deceased person, and you mean the trustees of

trust.

Q.-We were talking about the trustees of trusts, and I asked you whether you were taxing them, and you said that perhaps their property has already been taxed in the corporations that have gone into the trusts. I haid, perhaps that is so. Now then, you have the right to put an assessment have the right to come before you and show that the property had already paid its tax, wouldn' they? A .- Their returns ought to show as to what

Q.-Well, have you any returns in your office from the sugar, the tobacco or the oil trust, or any other of these large trusts? If you have, be kind enough to bring them with you to-morrow? A .-Yes, sir, I will do that

Q .- Yes, and then we will have them? A .- Yes, I

Q-And I will hand you now thanding witness slip of paper) the names of the trustees of the Standard Oil Trust, which is the only one that I was able to lay hands on at short notice. like to have the others as well, but I will hand you these trustees, so that you may be guided in our hunt for the papers. These are the assessments that are imposed upon these gentlemen personally, but you will look and see if they have been required to appear as trustees of the trust as well? A .- Yes, sir. Recess until 2 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION. HOFFMAN TRIES TO TURN THE PROBE

FROM THE TAX DEPARTMENT. Mr. Grell resumed the stand.

Mr. Moss-Now, Mr. Grell--

Mr. Hoffman-I think it proper at this time to call the attention of this committee and counsel to the fact of the appointment of a special commit-tee of the Senate and Assembly, in the past month, at the request and on the recommendation of the Governor of the State, for the express purpose of examining into the entire subject of taxation, and I believe that in taking up this subject it is taking up considerable time of this committee, and at siderable expense, and doing the work assigned to a special committee, appointed by a concurrent resolution of the Legislature. I believe by going on and taking up this subject, it is encroaching upon the duties of that committee, and on the core of economy I desire to call the attention of this committee and counsel to it, for the purpose of the question being considered as to whether or not we should not allow that matter to be examined into and investigated by the committee expressly appointed for that purpose, upon the recommenda-tion of the Governor of the State.

The Chairman-In view of the statement of Mr. Hoffman, I will say that there is a thorough understanding between this committee as to the work outlined to be performed by the committee appointed for that purpose. The work we have done ere will save that committee some time, and enable them to devote the time at their disposal in other directions, and they will consider it a help instead of a detriment to their work. Mr. Hoffman-I call the attention of the com-

mittee on the score of economy, as to whether we should take up this work. I believe we are usurping the powers of that committee in taking up this matter, and a sum of money has been assigned for the expenses of that committee, and I believe we are adding double expense to the taxpayers of the State of New-York in this committee taking it up. and that committee also. The Chairman-As I have already stated, this

committee and that committee are in accord. SUGAR TRUST ASSESSMENT.

Mr. Moss-Mr. Grell, you have produced statements of three so-called trusts; first, statement of the American Sugar Refining Company for 1899, showing that that company has an office at No. 117 Wall-st., in the Borough of Manhattan; has its principal office at Jersey City; the value of safes. fixtures and furniture in the State of New-York is \$20,000; cash on hand and in bank was less than 08,800, and showing no other assets, and on the back of this paper is this indorsement: "Assess. ment fixed at \$628,800. Feltner, G." "G." stands for Grell. And what is the other one? Salmon? A .- Salmon. Q.-Feltner, Salmon and Grell; that is the Com-

mittee on Personal and Corporation Taxes? A .-Q .- Then this is an illustration of what you have told us, that the corporation matters of the Tax Department are entirely in the hands of this sub-

nmittee? A.-Yes, sir. Q .- Now, Mr. Commissioner, I have noticed that a large number of the blanks on that certificate are not filled up. You notice that? A.-I do.

Q .- How is that? A .- Well, I would like to correct part of that answer to the question before. Q .- Yee, you may. A .- I stated before that in case the line is not so filled-that a few people will come in with us and help us.

Q .- You have said that before? A .- Well, yes, Q .- But that was not for your sub-committee? -This is made by the company-

Q .- How does it happen that you accepted the return where many of the blanks are not filled up? A .- For this reason: That is a non-resident corporation. Their goods are shipped to New-York and

and delivered to the Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments of the city of New-York for and in behalf of the American Sugar Refining Company showing the sum invested in business in the State of New-York on the second Monday of January, 1839. The company named in this statement is an organization under the laws of the State of Jersey, having its principal office at Jersey City. The company has an office at No. 117 Wall-st. Borough of Manhattan, in the city of New-York Amount of capital for which company is organized (blank), and the following items are true statements of the business of the company in the State of New-York on the second Monday of January, 1830. Has the corporation complied with the

provisions of Chapter 687 of the Laws of 1892 (Blank.) What was indicated as the business of the object of the corporation which it proposed to carry on within this State? (Blank.) What place within the State was indicated as its principal place of business? (Blank.) Has the corporation more than one place of transacting its busines within this State, and if so, where? (Blank.) The amount receivable on notes and open accounts in the State of New-York was (blank). of goods and merchandise in the State of New-York was (blank). The value of machinery and plant in the State was (blank). The value of stocks, fixtures and furniture, \$20,000. Cash on hand and in the bank was less than \$608,800. The amount of bills and accounts payable, rerchandise for items included in the sales, and assets was (blank). The amount invested in business in the State was (blank). Has any indebtedness been contracted in the purchase of non-taxable property or securities for the purpose of evading taxation? No. Is the company assessed by the State Controller, and, if so, to what amount? (Blank.) Sworn to by Arthur Donner, treasurer, before John H. Themas, notary public." DEFECTIVE STATEMENT

Q .- Now, you see this statement does not show

whether or not the corporation has any goods wares and merchandise in the State of New-York It doesn't show that it hasn't? It doesn't say that it hasn't notes and open accounts in the State of New-York. It doesn't say that it has no machinery and plant in the State of New-York. doesn't say that there are no bills and account due and owing in the State of New-York. doesn't say that it has no money invested in the State of New-York. What proof did you take outside of this statement of those facts? A .- Well, that is a company that is organized under the law of a different State. It is taken for granted where they so state that their main office is in another State, we can only hold them as to returns, asking such fixtures and money in banks they have, as you see they give us here.

Q.-But you furnish them with a blank there. You sent them that blank to be filled out, and there are important items there which are not filled out at all. They don't deny that they have the property, and they don't admit that they have A .- We take what they have in New-York. Q.-Yes, but isn't it possible for a foreign corp

ration to have machinery in the State of New-York? A .- Yes. Q .- And if it had machinery in the State of New

York it should be assessed? A .- Yes. Q .- Isn't it possible for a foreign corporation to have goods, wares and merchandise in the State of New-York? A.-Yes.

-And do you mean to say this partially completed statement is all you go on? A .- It is not. We see they have no connections in the State New-York, because the main office is in New-Jer-Q .- But when you give them a statement to be

filled up, and where items in that statement may possibly, if answered, show property in New-York State, why don't you make them fill them out? A .- We can't force them; the law doesn't give us Q .- You say you only assess them at those two items which are in that paper, \$628,800. What is that \$75,000,000 down there on the corner of the paper?

to the gross capital. Q .- That is the gross capital? A .- That is as near as our chief deputy could come to the gross capital. Q .- That is the capital as issued in New-Jersey? A.-No, the whole.

Q.-All of the companies that are united in the

Q.-Well, this is a New-Jersey corporation; where

-That is as near as our chief deputy could come

A.-Well, as assessed them, as a company.

is that capital of \$75,000,000? A .- They have not put it in there. HUNDREDS WON'T TELL ANYTHING.

Q .- They have not put it in there? Why didn't you require them to put it in? A.—I will state, Mr. Moss, that we have a number of them, hundreds of them, that don't give us any return at all. Q.-What do you do with them? A.-Assess them our own ability as to what business they are do-

ing in New-York. Take, for instance, a corporation in New-Jersey that is in the manufacturing line. Q .- One of your Commissioners-I think it was Mr. Sheehy-the other day said these statements were sent to a corporation under the law, with the expectation that they would return them; that if they did not return them they would send again; if they were not then returned they, your Board, would assess the corporation at a sum somewhat than it was supposed the property was larger

worth, in order to put a sort of punishment

minder on them. A .- I was going to come to that. Q .- You were going to come to that? A .- Where a corporation don't make any returns we get as near to the capital as we can, and we get as near as we can to the business. If it is a railroad company, they can't have much more than an office in New-York. If it is a manufacturing company, they have a place of business in New-York, they ost naturally must have machinery and stock and we assess them according to those circum-

O -Now. Mr. Grell, here is the statement of the American Tobacco Company, and I notice that in this statement the blanks are filled up? A.-That

O .- These people have told you what they have

Q .- They have admitted they have, amount receivable of notes and open accounts in the State of New-York, \$132,339. Now, perhaps if the sugar company had filled out that blank it would have shown something in that place? A .- Probably it

Q.-The tobacco company admits the value of goods, wares and merchandise in the State of New-York was \$405,449 91; the value of its machinery and plant in the State of New-York, \$143,261 27; the value of the safes, fixtures and furniture in the State of New-York, \$13,000-considerably less than the other company; that the cash on hand in bank was \$186. 762 50-that is considerably less-indicating that this tobacco trust was a smaller company than the sugar trust. And the capitalization which you people have marked at the foot of the paper is 000,000, less than half, yet it shows \$1,000,000 and more in items, where there is no return at all in the sugar company. Now, if you had compelled them to return those items in the sugar company paper probably you would have got \$1,000,000 in there. A .-As to that question, I think it is a legal question. I don't knew whether we have a right lawfully to do that. PENALTY ON TRUE RETURNS.

Q.-Here this tobacco company admitted assets of \$881,180, and claims to owe debts of \$210,854, leaving

a palance of \$670,326, and you assess them at the full amount, \$670,326-(showing paper) there are your signatures? A .- Yes. Q.-There, you see, the company, which has mad

a full and complete return, is assessed at exactly what it returns, and the other company, which has made only a partial return, giving only two figures is assessed at just what it returns. Why didn't you exercise your power in the case of the sugar company, and add something, put them to it, upon those items which were not answered? That would have been in line of what the Commissioner testified the other day as the course of practice in the office. A .- In answer to that I will state that the thousands that we have it is impossible to go after everything and find out what they have in the office. We have to go by their returns Q.—There is a very large matter, and they have over \$600,000? A.—They claim here they have only

an office in New-York
Q.-Where is that claim, that they have an office nly in New-York? A .- They give an office in New-York.

Q.-But they do not say they have not an office anywhere else. They simply fail to fill out the blanks? A.—That is a frequent occurrence with foreign corporations STANDARD OIL ASSESSMENT.

Q .- Now here we have the Standard Oil Company

which goes into the matter very fully. The Standard Oil Company shows even its real estate. The Standard Oil Company of New-York says, total gross assets, including real estate, \$27,285,056 \$3. of which ten million is real estate and seventeen million is personal. Capital stock paid in or se their bills are collected from the main office cured to be paid in, seven militon dollars. Amount Q.—Now let us see (reading); 2 Statement made. of surplus earnings, \$3,071,248 99; actual value, as its

rent esate is carried on their books as an ang \$10,216,270. Then there is indorsed on this "Assessment fixed at \$600,000 by consent." Consessigned Lewis Cass Ledyard, F. Feitner, G. for Orell? A.—And A. S. for Arthur Salmon.

Q.-A. S. for Arthur Salmon? A.-Yes Q.-A. B. for Article that the blank furnished the Standard Oil Company is entirely different from the other blank? A .- A New-York corporation Q.-Is it a New-York corporation? A.-You wa Ind It that way.

Q .- Yes, organized under the laws of the State of New-York. Then in that case you allowed then to state their personal property in bulk, in the other cases you require them to make detailed statements? A.-We have got to assess the

Q.-I notice that they did not answer the a tion, which you asked, to give the rate of divident

Q .- They did answer the question, "the a actually paid for real estate owned by you," did answer that, saying, "Unknown"? A .- I this

Q.-No, it is not in there, simply the assessed valuation there? A.-Well, the assessed valuation s all they want.

pose that the corporation has records to

looked. Mr. Moss-Well, look it over. They evidently accepted that. A. (looking at paper)-That is all right. I guess you will find all the property they rave got right in these two supplementary state

Q .- It would appear that your Department wanted to tax them for more than six hundred thousand dollars, because they consented to six hundred thousand dollars. What was it that your Department wanted to tax them? Can you tell from that? A .- Wherever we have a large company that really hastn't made returns, why, we try to get them to consent, we urge upon them that they ought to pay some taxes; and, through that, they often will

Q .- Now, this statement shows gross assets of personal property, seventeen million dollars? 4-Kindly let me see that.

Q .- No, wait a moment. Indebtedness in deg as follows: "Loans and accounts transferred, two million dollars." That would leave an appare surplus of nearly five million dollars of persons property; but you accepted on assessment-that b, you consented to an assessment at six hundred thousand dollars. Now, on what argument, and by what line of reasoning, and by what considers tion of facts, did you reduce the apparent surplus of personal property by nearly five million dollars there, down to six hundred thousand dollars? A.-But you don't take into consideration the supple-

mentary statement that we have here.
Q.-Where is that? A.-Real estate owned in Brooklyn and in New-York, and all over. That has to be deducted. Q.-But that real estate is taxed by itself, isn't it? A .- I know; but then it is in the gross assets

-the real estate is in the gross pasets. Q.-Oh, no. Look at it. Gross assets, twenty-seven million dollars; real estate, ten million delars; personal property, seventeen million dollars? A .- They are all added together in-Q .- In the twenty-seven million dollars? A .- Yes

Q .- Your personal property is seventeen million dollars? A .- That is very true.

SOME INGENIOUS FIGURING. Q.-Indebtedness in detail is \$12,000,000? A.-Verg

Q.-Now, \$12,000,000 taken from \$17,000,000 leaved \$5,000,000; but, as there are some odd figures there, I say nearly \$5,000,000. How do you scale \$5,000,000 fown to \$600,000? That is on their own figures that is on their own sworn statement. There is the affidavit. (Indicating.) How do you do it? A.—
This will show for itself. You add this together.
The real estate and the personal property will make \$27,285,000. Now, you deduct real estate and debt, and it will come out that you have a debt there instead of a surplus.

Q .- But is not the real estate taxed by itself! A .- Yes; but-

Q .- Now, listen to me. Is not the real estate taxed by itself? A .- Very true. And that is the reason it is deducted. It is charged in the gross

Q.-I understand that. The real estate is taxed by itself. So that when the tax is once paid real estate, it does not touch the personal estate? A.-No. Q.-Now, this statement shows that the real estate of the company was \$10,000,000. That is already taxed, and paid into the real estate sid

of the Tax Department, isn't it? It further shows that the personal property separated from the real estate is \$17,000,000, it shows that the indebted-Now, you take your ness in detail is \$12,000,000. \$12,000,000 away from your \$17,000,000, and you have nearly \$5,000,000? A .- Yes; but they cannot take

the indebtedness away; you couldn't do that, Q .- If you did not take the indebtedness away they would have to pay on \$17,000,000? A.-No, sir; the \$17,000,000 that you have there-you have the paper there-is a debt, isn't it? Q .- Yes A .- Very well; it has to be deducted

from the gross assets. Q.-Deducted from what? You don't deduct it from the real estate and the personal property? A -No, sir; from the gross assets.

Q .- Of personal property? A .- The statement, as you have it there. Q .- How can you deduct debts from real estate? A .- Why, you don't do it. The real estate, as I tell you, is in the gross assets. Naturally, to coms to a conclusion, you have got to reduce it again from the same, as the returns show it there.

Q.-I don't see how you make that out. Well, your returns show it.

APPEALS TO "ANY GENTLEMAN." Q .- But there are the returns? (Indicating) A .- Well, let any gentleman look at it and he will

Q.—The real estate stands by itself, and is taxed by itself, regardless of debts, isn't it, and, whether it is owned by the Standard Oil Company or not, or by any other company, it is taxed? A .- Yes, sir: that is right. Q .- You have nothing to do with the real estate

side of the Department, have you? A -But we command them to give the real estate in the gross Q.-But you have nothing to do with the taxing

of the real estate. That is done on the other side of your Department by the other committee? Well, you can take it as such, if you want to. Q.-I do take it as such. A.-It is the tax office that does it, just the same. Q.-In the statement submitted to you by this company, which shows what real estate it has

nevertheless that real estate has already been taxed and is out of your hands, and what you are considering is the personal estate, is it not? Yes, sir, the corporation-this is a corporation return. Q .- Now, then, a corporation returns that it has \$17,000,000 of personal estate, with an indebtedness

ly \$5,000,000, or over, personal estate. A .- No, yell are taking off the real estate only. Q.-I am not touching the real estate. I am not talking about the real estate; we don't consider that real estate. We are talking about personal estate. A .- You have there debts, loans and so-

of \$12,000,000; and, if I can figure, that leaves near-

counts payable, over twelve million. Q.-Twelve million. Now, you have found that haven't you? Now, look and find out how much personal property they have? A .- They have it up

here, seventeen million.
Q.-Now, deduct twelve million from seventees million. A.—But you can't do it, Mr. Moss. Q.—Why can't you? A.—You have got other Q.-What other debts? A.-Merchandise and

Q.-Merchandise and chattels-are those debts! A .- No, that is true. That's an account Q.—That is an asset? A.—Yes. United States socurities here which are to be deducted. Q .- How much? A .- Seven hundred and fourteen

thousand dollars. WITNESS GROWS STUBBORN. Q.-Seven hundred and fourteen thousand dollars Well, that don't reduce it very much. A.-There

are figures here to show plainly where the reduc-Q.-I want you to tell me. Now, look here. Mr Grell, if you will allow me, I will hand you a clean white page of paper and a pencil. A .- Yes

Q.-And we will take this affidavit-in a minute

for last year or the amount of the last angu-dividend? A.—They haven't given any.

you will find it in here, Mr. Moss.

Q.-But you asked them to give you the price they paid. They say, "Unknown." Don't you sowhat is actually paid for real estate? A .- Ought to Q.—Ought to have. But you accepted that answer "Unknown?" A.—I don't know, I haven

TRUST GRACIOUSLY CONSENTED,

Q .- Through that, you say, they very often we consent? A -Yes, sir.